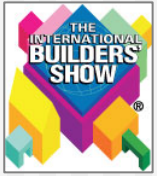


Marion Co. ATC carpentry students compete in Residential Construction Management event at the 2009 International Builders' Show



Marion Co. ATC carpentry instructor Danny Taylor and five of his carpentry students attended the 2009 International Builders' Show (IBS) from January 19-22 at the Las Vegas Convention Center. It was the first time he had taken students to compete during the international event. Taylor's five-member team won ninth place in residential construction management, a competitive event sponsored by Centex Homes. While proud of his team's effort, the experience has already impacted how they will compete next year.



Taylor's team is made up of officers in the Marion Co. ATC Home Builders Association of Kentucky (HBAK) student chapter including Nathan Mattingly, president; Caleb Essex, vice president; David Robinson, reporter; Karl Robinson, treasurer; and Cody Smith, secretary. According to Taylor, all are fine young men who have demonstrated a good work ethic and strive to achieve success.

When Taylor learned of the competition, he discussed it with his chapter members. They were all eager to become involved. The scope of the project included all aspects of building a home in San Antonio, TX. From October to the first of December, his students stayed after school at least two days a week to research materials and labor costs for the area.

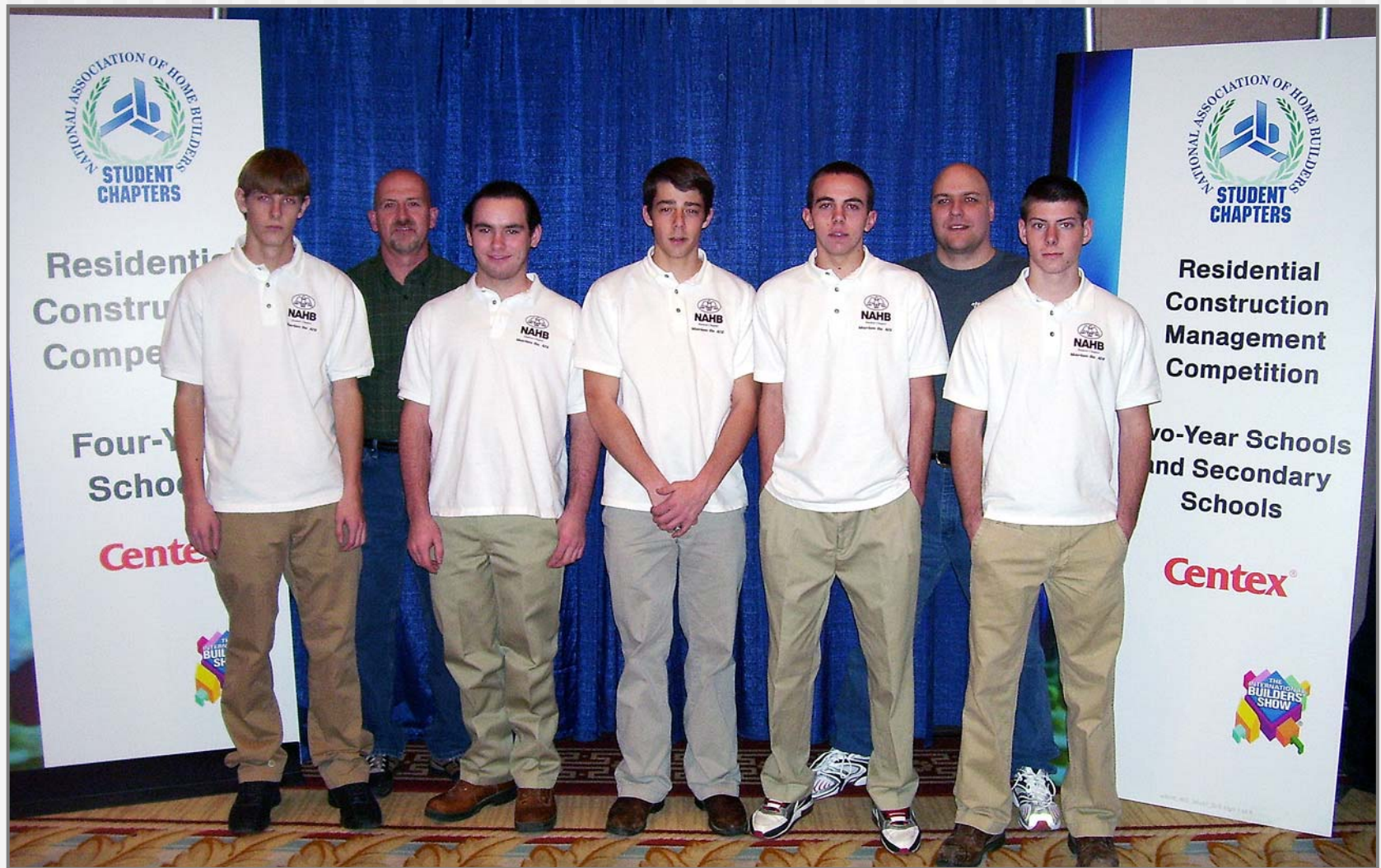


Photo: Marion County Area Technology Center team and instructors. Back row (l to r): Danny Taylor, carpentry instructor and David Gerhardt, automotive technology instructor. Gerhardt served as an advisor on the trip. Front row (l to r): Cody Smith, secretary; Caleb Essex, vice president; Karl Robinson, treasurer; David Robinson, reporter; and Nathan Mattingly, president.

Upon conclusion of the competition, Taylor learned their score was impacted by the prints they submitted. To rectify the problem, he has already contacted Mr. Greg Conley, the Project Lead the Way instructor at the Marion Co. ATC for support in next year's competition.

Not only did the carpentry team have to create a project for competition, they had to raise travel money. Fundraisers included the sale of a storage building and gazebo. They received a National Association of Home Builders scholarship grant in the amount of \$1,750. Lora Werner, HBAK director of member services, was instrumental in helping Taylor and his students in writing and submitting the grant. They were also awarded \$1,000 toward travel expenses from the HBAK because of their student organization affiliation.

“It was my pleasure to attend and watch our students in the competition. They were dressed in HBAK golf shirts for a unified and professional builders appearance,” said Werner. “They were articulate in their subject matter, skilled in their presentation and able to answer questions, posed by the judges, in a proficient and self-confident manner. They also served as great ambassadors for the Marion County Area Technology Center and Home Builders Association of Kentucky. We were all proud of how these students represented us.”

Taylor has been involved in the HBAK for four years. He originally learned of the organization through Juva Barber, HBAK Governmental Affairs director and member of his advisory committee. According to Taylor, Barber strongly encouraged him to create a Marion Co. ATC HBAK student chapter. With her guidance, he did.

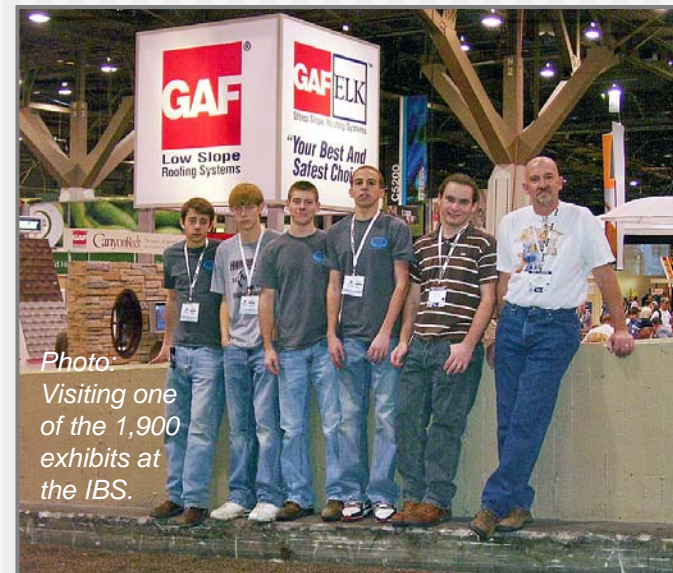


Photo:
Visiting one
of the 1,900
exhibits at
the IBS.



Taylor:

"The HBAK association has helped my students grow and develop. For instance, upon graduation from my program, my students will receive a certificate from the National Association of Home Builders because they have been part of this organization. Here's what I consider to be a major asset in career building - the certificate allows each student to post his or her resume into a job bank where they automatically become eligible for employment in the construction industry anywhere in the US. That is a significant advantage to some of these students.

"Another major benefit has been an opportunity to attend this show because by industry standards, it's the best in the business. And, HBAK has also provided us with financial support, supplies and some great guest speakers for our club meetings."

Taylor's students visited exhibits, saw the newest market products, attended educational sessions and workshops, and were part of some special events. In Taylor's mind, this is a great use of time for professional development because it "provides me with the most up to date information, equipment and technology used in the real world."

According to Kevin Horn of the Home Builders Institute (HBI) in Washington D.C., "Marion County ATC is participating in the Residential Construction Academy (RCA) series and is currently credentialed. This means that they satisfied all the requirements listed on the credentialing application."

Once the application is submitted and approved, HBI prints out student certificates and sends to the school for distribution. The school then has the option to go online to the national registry and enter students' names and the trades they successfully completed in the RCA Series.

"The National Association of Home Builders Student Chapters is an NAHB program administered by HBI," said Werner. "The RCA series follows industry standards, created by NAHB members."